

COCKERMOUTH

Rural District Council

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

Charles A. Mason, M.B., Ch.B., D.H.P.

FOR THE YEAR 1938.

Together with the Summary of Work
of the Sanitary Inspectors.

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Cockermouth Rural District Council.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cockermouth Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1938. To comply with the request of the Ministry of Health, this is drawn up in accordance with Circular 1728, dated 25th October, 1938, and the Registrar General's Memorandum SD/ 54 received May 26th, 1939.

My thanks are due to Misses Fisher, Higham; E. W. Trench, Winscales; Messrs. H. Irwin, Dean; T. H. Stokoe, of The West Cumberland By-Products Co., Ltd.; T. Wilson, Crosthwaite; J. Smith Hill, Braithwaite; and W. F. H. Creber, Engineer to Manchester Corporation Waterworks: for their courtesy in supplying records of Rainfall.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. MASON,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres), 161,312 (inclusive of area covered by water).

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid-1938) 17,640.

Number of inhabited houses (end 1938) according to Rate Books, 4,879.

Rateable Value £78,518.

Sum represented by Penny Rate:—
Gross, £327.

Estimated product of a Penny Rate, £303.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live	Legitimate	252	134	118	} Birth Rate (R.G.) 14.79
Births	Illegitimate	9	4	5	
Still Births	...	7	1	6	Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) births 26.1

		Total	M.	F.	
Deaths	...	233	127	106	Crude Death Rate
(R.G.)	13.2 per 1,000	of estimated resident population.			

		Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	...	nil	nil
Other puerperal causes	...	nil	nil
Total	...	nil	nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	80
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	83
Illegitimate	„ illegitimate	„ nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	5
Deaths from Cancer	...	29

Table showing RAINFALL in inches, in 1938, compiled from observers in various parts of the district.

Observation Station ...	Dean School	Winscales House	At Crosthwaite Keswick, about 440 yards from the Cockermouth Rural District boundary	Spring Bank, Braithwaite	Higham	Bye-Product Works, Flimby, about a mile from Cockermouth R.D. Boundary.	Dale Head Hall, Thirlmere
Observer ...	H. Irwin, Esq.	Miss E. W. Trench.	T. Wilson, Esq.	J. Smith Hill, Esq.	Miss Fisher.	T Stokoe, Esq.	W.F. H. Crebert Esq., Engineer to Manchester Corporation Water Works
Diameter of Rain Gauge Funnel	5 inches	5 in.	5 in.	8 in.	5 in.	2.75 in.	5 in.
Height of gauge above ground	11 in.	1 ft. 6 in.	1 ft.	1 ft.	9 in.	4 ft. 6 in.	1 ft.
Height of gauge above sea level	365 ft.	440 ft.	254 ft.	280 ft.	500 ft.	50 ft.	620 ft.
1938.	ins.	ins.	ins.	ins.	ins.	ins.	ins.
January	5'42	3'86	7'55	10'04	5'57	4'75	14'31
February	2'17	1'43	2'37	3'26	1'53	2'22	5'26
March	3'06	1'98	3'56	4'74	3'14	4'04	6'83
April	'48	'48	'53	'80	'83	nil	1'14
May	5'07	4'75	3'83	4'53	3'51	5'86	6'80
June	6'22	5'03	8'52	10'95	6'30	6'16	12'64
July	7'97	6'75	6'74	9'29	7'00	11'11	11'31
August	2'87	3'39	2'96	3'90	4'09	5'25	5'39
September	3'73	2'7	3'66	4'34	3'74	15'15	5'59
October	11'26	8'75	16'99	19'78	11'60	12'42	20'98
November	8'15	6'14	11'33	13'06	8'71	11'31	16'41
December	2'72	3'2	5'31	5'87	4'70	4'65	8'67
Totals	59'12	48'39	73'35	90'56	60'72	82'92	115'33
Average prev. 5 yrs 1933-37 (incl)	41'84	34'46	51'16 (Av. 36 yrs. —56'96)	61'5	41'83		85'39 (Av. 62 yrs. 81'59)

Cockermouth Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. for the year 1938.

The area of the district in statute acres is 161,312 (approximately 4,700 of which are covered by inland water).

POPULATION.

The Registrar General's figure for the resident population of the district estimated to the middle of 1938 is 17,640, on which the birth and death rates, etc., are based.

(The figure for 1937 was 17,790.

(The yearly estimates of population provided by the Registrar General are based on the adjusted last Census figures after allowance for births, deaths, and migration.)

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

In the Cockermouth Rural District, which is included in the Mid-Cumberland Guardians' Area, the number of persons in receipt of out-door relief was 997, giving a proportion of (approximately) 1 in 18 of the population, as compared with 1 in 18 for 1937, 1 in 14 for 1936, 1 in 17 for 1935, 1 in 13 for 1934, 1 in 14 for 1933, 1 in 15 for 1932, and 1 in 17 for 1931.

Two persons were admitted to Public Assistance Hospital from this district during the year, giving a proportion of approximately 1 in 8,820 of the population. 1937.—11 persons, and 1 in 1,617 of population).

The numbers for 1938 are detailed as follows:—

Registration Sub-district		Out-door Relief		Indoor
		Ordinary	Unemployed	
Cockermouth	...	100	73	0
Maryport	...	304	264	1
Workington	...	87	145	1
Keswick	...	24	—	0
		—	—	—
		515	482	2

I am indebted to Mr. J. T. Gill, Clerk to the Guardians Committee for the above figures.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

Live Births.—The total number of live births registered in and belonging to the district in 1938 was 261 (138 males and 123 females). Of these 9 (4 males and 5 females) were illegitimate. The net live birth rate is accordingly 14.79 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 15.2 for the previous year.

Comparisons may be given as follows:—

Birth Rates, 1938—Cumberland	...	15.9
Rural Districts of Cumberland	...	15.2
Urban Districts of Cumberland	...	16.8
England and Wales	...	15.1
Cockermouth Rural District	..	14.79

The Live Birth Rates for the past ten years in the Cockermouth Rural District were:—

Year —	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Rate —	14.7	15.2	15.4	15.2	15.08	14.09	17.2	16.04	16.2	19.02

The percentage of illegitimate live births is approximately 3.4 as compared with 7.7 in 1937.

Percentages of illegitimate live births for the past ten years were:—

Year—1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
% —3.4	7.7	5.0	9.3	6.5	7.0	6.0	6.4	7.8	8.5

Still Births.—7 still births (all legitimate) were also registered giving a still birth rate of 0.39 per 1000 of the population as compared with 0.28 for 1937. (The rate for all England and Wales was 0.60).

Still birth rates per 1000 population for past ten years:—

Year—1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Rate— .39	.28	.49	.16	.72	.65	.56	.80	.82	.54

The still birth rate per 1000 total live and still births was 26.1 as compared with 18.05 for 1937.

Still birth rates per 1000 total live and still births for past ten years:

Year—1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Rate— 26.1	18.05	31.14	10.71	45.7	44.5	31.7	47.6	48.2	34.2

DEATHS.

The number of deaths, registered as belonging to the district was 233* (127 males and 106 females) i.e. after correcting for non-residents dying within the district and for those persons whose usual residence was within the district dying outside the district. This gives a crude death rate of 13.2 per 1000 of the population as compared with 13.8 for the previous year.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1938.

CAUSES OF DEATH.			Males	Females
ALL CAUSES	...	...	127	106
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever				
2 Measles	...	...	1	
3 Scarlet fever	...	...
4 Whooping-cough	...	...
5 Diphtheria	...	...		1
6 Influenza	...	...	2	1
7 Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...		1
8 Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...
9 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	2	4
10 Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	1	1
11 Syphilis	...	...		1
12 General Paralysis of the Insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...
13 Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	11	18
14 Diabetes	...	...	1	2
15 Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	11	13
16 Heart Disease	...	...	35	24
17 Aneurism	...	...
18 Other Circulatory diseases	...	...	4	
19 Bronchitis	...	...	6	2
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	5	3
21 Other Respiratory diseases	...	...
22 Peptic Ulcer	...	...	1	1
23 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	2	3
24 Appendicitis	...	...	1	
25 Cirrhosis of liver	...	...		1
26 Other diseases of liver, etc.	...	...	1	
27 Other digestive diseases	...	...	3	2
28 Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	4	2
29 Puerperal sepsis	...	...	—
30 Other puerperal causes	...	...	—
31 Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	...	...	4	4
32 Senility	...	...	6	4
33 Suicide	...	...	1	
34 Other Violence	...	...	9	5
35 Other defined diseases	...	...	10	12
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	6	1
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)				
Small-pox	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...
Polioencephalitis	...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age				
Total		...	10	11
Legitimate		...	10	11
Illegitimate		...		
LIVE BIRTHS	{	TOTAL	138	123
		Legitimate	134	118
		Illegitimate	4	5
STILL BIRTHS	{	TOTAL	1	6
		Legitimate	1	6
		Illegitimate		
POPULATION (for Births & Deaths) 1938—R.G. ...			17,640	

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality in the year 1938.

	Birth-Rate per 1000 total population		Annual Death rate per 1000 population										Rate per 1000 Births		
			All Causes		Small-pox					Typhoid & Para-typhoid Fevers	Whooping Cough	Measles		Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Total Deaths under 1 year
	Crude D.R.	Adjusted D.R.													
			Live Births	Still Births											
England & Wales	15.1	0.60	11.6	—	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.01	0.07	0.11	0.55	53		
Cumberland	15.9		13.5	13.0									60		
Urban Districts...	16.8		13.5	13.6									54		
Rural	15.2		13.6	12.4									64		
Cockermouth Rural Dist.	14.79	0.39	13.2	12.6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.17	0.85	80		

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1938.

Net Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages
under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
Bronchitis							2	1		3
Broncho-pneumonia ..									1	1
Convulsions	1				1	1				2
Gastritis and Gastro-Enteritis						1	3	2		6
Premature Birth	4				4					4
Melaena Neonatorum ..	1				1					1
Congenital Malformation ..		1			1				1	2
Tubercular Meningitis ..							1			1
Congenital Debility						1				1
All Causes (certified) ..	6	1			7	2	7	3	2	21

It will be noticed that, at any rate, 6 of the infants died before reaching the age of one week.

By multiplying the crude death rate figure by an adjusting factor ("The Population Handicap") supplied by the Registrar General the Adjusted Death Rate is arrived at, i.e. the crude death rate adjusted, in so far as sex and age group components of the population are concerned, so as to make it comparable from a mortality point of view with the crude death rate of the country as a whole or with the mortality of any other local area similarly modified. The adjusting factor, or Areal Comparability Factor, was 0.96. The adjusted death rate for Cockermouth Rural District was therefore 12.6 as compared with 13.2 for 1937.

Comparisons of crude and adjusted death rates are shewn below:—

	Crude	Adjusted
Death Rates, 1938—Cumberland ...	13.5	13.0
Rural Districts of Cumberland	13.6	12.4
Urban Districts of Cumberland	13.5	13.6
England and Wales ...	11.6	—
Cockermouth Rural District ...	13.2	12.62

The Crude Death Rates for the past 10 years in the Cockermouth Rural District were:—

Year—1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Rate—13.2	13.8	11.3	12.5	13.49	12.3	12.8	11.4	12.09	11.2

(For causes of death during the year see table on page 8.)

(For comparisons table of birth rates, death rates and analysis of mortality see page 9.)

*Deaths of persons serving with H.M. Forces are allocated to their area of residence in the same manner as civilian deaths (R.G.).

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 21* deaths of infants under one year of age, which give an Infantile Mortality Rate of approximately 80 per 1000 births as compared with 66 for the preceding year.

*This figure includes inward transfers but not outward transfers, of course.

Comparisons may be given as follows:—

Infantile Mortality Rates, 1938:—

Cumberland ...	60
Rural Districts of Cumberland	64
Urban Districts of Cumberland	54
England and Wales ...	53
Cockermouth Rural District ...	80

No death occurred among illegitimate infants, so that the Illegitimate Infantile Mortality Rate is nil per 1000 illegitimate births, as compared with the Legitimate Infantile Mortality Rate of approximately 83 per 1000 legitimate births. These rates were respectively 48 and 68 for the previous year.

The Infantile Mortality Rates for the past 10 years in the Cockermouth Rural District were:—

Year—1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Rate—80	66	50	43	58	77	77	70	51	71

(For Infant Mortality Table see page 10)

SENILE DEATH RATE.

129 persons (76 males and 53 females) had attained the age of 65 years or upwards. This number represents a Senile death rate of 55.3 per cent. of the total deaths, as compared with 46.3 for 1937.

23 (16 m 12 f)	persons died between the ages of 65 and 70 years
40 (26 m 14f)	" " " 70 and 75 years
30 (14 m 16f)	" " " 75 and 80 years
21 (11 m 10f)	" " " 80 and 85 years
9 (8m 1f)	" " " 85 and 90 years
1 (m)	person died at age of 93 years

The Senile death rates for the past 10 years were:—

Year—1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Rate—55.6	46.3	52.9	49.5	56.3	46.3	48.7	47.3	47.3	50.0

INQUESTS, UNCERTIFIED DEATHS AND VIOLENCE.

In respect of deaths belonging to the district during the year there were 18 inquests (10 of which were held outside the district). An inquest within the district was also held in respect of 9 non-residents. No Coroner's Certificates were received of cases where post mortem examination had been made but no inquest held.

Ten deaths were uncertified (1937.—11).

Inquests for past 10 years:—

Year—1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Inquests - 18	11	7	9	12	17	12	11	19	12

Violence.—With reference to the Violence death-rate of 0.85 for Cockermouth Rural District, as compared with 0.55 for all England and Wales (see table page 9) I give below a table showing the number of deaths from Suicide, Other Violence and the Total Violence deaths, together with the percentages of the total deaths from all causes, and the death rates of each per 1000 of the population for the past ten years:

SUICIDE—

Years	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Deaths	1	1	1	nil	1	3	2	1	4	3
% all causes—	.42	.40	.46	nil	.38	1.14	.73	.41	1.51	1.21
Death-rate—	.05	.05	.05	nil	.05	.14	.09	.04	.18	.13

OTHER VIOLENCE—

Deaths	14	9	5	7	13	10	8	9	15	8
% all causes—	6.00	3.65	2.42	3.07	4.98	3.80	2.93	3.70	5.68	3.25
Death-rate—	.79	.50	.27	.38	.67	.46	.37	.42	.68	.36

TOTAL VIOLENCE—

Deaths	15	10	6	7	14	13	10	10	19	11
% all causes—	6.43	4.06	2.91	3.07	5.36	4.94	3.66	4.11	7.19	4.47
Death-rate—	.85	.56	.33	.38	.72	.61	.47	.47	.87	.50

The 15 violence deaths in 1938 included 2 from occupational accidents (both coal pits), 5 from road accidents (1937.—2), 6 drowning, 1 hanging (suicide), and 1 from burns (accidental).

CANCER.

Cancer proved fatal in 29 cases, as follows:—

System	Primary Organ	Males	Females
Alimentary	Stomach ...	4	2
	Bowel ...	2	5
	Rectum ...		1
Glandular	Thyroid ...		1
	Pancreas ...	1	1
	Prostate ...	4	
Reproductive	Uterus ...		2
	Ovary ...		3
Pulmonary	Lung ...		1
Other	Mediastinum ...		1
	Unknown ...		1
		—	—
		11	18

4 of the deaths	(1m 3f)	were of persons between	40 and 50 years of age
7	" (1m 6f)	" "	50 and 60 "
6	" (2m. 4f.)	" "	60 and 70 "
8	" (4m. 4f.)	" "	70 and 80 "
3	" (m.)	" "	80 and 90 "

The 29 deaths correspond to a death rate of 1.64 per 1000 of the population as compared with 31 deaths and a death rate of 1.74 in 1937. Approximately out of every 8 deaths of persons in this district 1 was due to cancer.

The cancer deaths and death rates for the past ten years were :

Year—	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Deaths—	29	31	20	28	26	39	26	41	29	33
Rate —	1.64	1.74	1.10	1.53	1.34	1.8	1.2	1.9	1.3	1.5

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The Zymotic Death Rate, or the death rate from the seven principal zymotic diseases for 1938 is .39 per 1000 of the population, the same as that for 1937.

The following figures show the number of deaths from each disease :

Zymotic Disease.	No. of Deaths
Smallpox	—
Measles	1
Whooping Cough	—
Diphtheria	1
Scarlet Fever	—
Fever :—Typhus	—
Typhoid	—
Para-typhoid	—
Diarrhoea	5
	—
Total	7

Table showing Zymotic Death Rates for past ten years:—

Year —	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Rate —	.39	.39	.11	.38	.31	.14	.09	.37	.2	.2

14 TUBERCULOSIS.

(Vide also page 38).

There were 8 deaths due to Tuberculosis:—

		Males	Females
Respiratory System	...	2	4
Non-Pulmonary	...	1	1

All the deaths were of previously notified cases in this district.

The total gives a tuberculosis (all forms) death rate of .45 per 1000 of the population, as compared with .56 for 1937.

The "Consumption" (i.e. Pulmonary Tuberculosis) Death rate was .34 per 1000 of the population, as compared with last year's figure of .39.

The Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rates for the past ten years were:—

Year—1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Rate— .34	.39	.33	.65	.41	.7	.33	.42	.45	.3
.....									

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Particulars relating to the following six items (under the above heading) remain as detailed in my 1930 and subsequent reports:—

- (i) **Hospitals.**
- (ii) **Nursing in the Home.**
- (iii) **Maternity.**
- (iv) **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**
- (v) **Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants, and Homeless Children.**
- (vi) **Institutional Provision for the care of Mental Defectives.**

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Council's scheme—drawn up in 1936—to provide this social service for the district, came into being early in 1937. An up-to-date 20 h.p. Austin Motor Ambulance, bought by the Council, has been in commission from the beginning of February, 1937.

The scheme includes, inter alia, the following provisions:—

- (a) The ambulance service is rate-provided, and free of charge within the County, to ratepayers in the district.
- (b) Parishes are covered as follows:—
 - (i) Crosscanonby, Dearham, Broughton Moor—by the Maryport Ambulance.
 - (ii) St. John's, Castlerigg and Wythburn, Borrowdale, Above Derwent, Underskiddaw and Bassen-thwaite—by the Keswick Ambulance.
 - (iii) Gt. and Lt. Clifton, Winscales and Seaton—by the Workington Ambulance.
 - (iv) Remaining parishes by the new ambulance at Cockermouth.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

In addition to what is given in my 1930 and subsequent reports:—

SPECIAL ORDERS:—

Public Health Act, 1875—

Section 161—1st paragraph (relating to lighting of streets, etc.) shall be in force in the contributory places of

Bassenthwaite..... 1st January, 1938,

And of Winscales..... 7th February, 1938.

Public Health Act, 1936—

Section 72 (relating to expenses re removal of house refuse) and

Section 76 (relating to provision of refuse tips, etc.) shall be in force in the contributory places of

Buttermere, Embleton, Setmurthy and Wythop.....

13th August, 1938.

Section 72 (see above), also, shall be in force in the contributory place of Borrowdale..... 13th August, 1938.

LABORATORY WORK.

The following table shows the amount of work done in connection with investigations of certain cases of illness during the year, 1938:—

Material		Test applied for—	Result :	
			Pos.	Neg
Throat or nose swabs	...	Diphtheria	0	12
do.	...	Haemolytic Streptococci		1
Sputum	...	Tuberculosis	2	5
Blood	...	Typhoid and Para-Typhoid	1	1
			Doubtful	1
Urine	...	" "		1
Faeces	...	" "		1
Pleural Fluid	...	Haemolytic streptoc., Tb. etc.	Sterile	1

The Council still has arrangements with the Clinical Research Association, Ltd., London, for examination and report on throat swabs, specimens of sputum, blood, etc., though the Cumberland Pathological Laboratory at the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, is mainly made use of.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

1. Part-time Medical Officer of Health.
2. Two full-time Sanitary Inspectors:—
 - (i.) Senior S.I.—Mr. George Nelson, who holds the Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and also a special Certificate of the London City Guilds for Sanitation and Plumbing work.
 - (ii.) Additional S.I.—Mr. Edgar Dixon, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and the Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board, and a Building Construction Certificate of the Northern Counties Technical Examination Council.

The work of the Council's Engineering Staff (Sanitary and Water) under Mr. A. E. Simpson, A.M.I.C.E., is to some extent connected with this department. Mr. S. Feather, A.M.I.C.E., was still engaged as Temporary Assistant to the Engineer for the preparation of plans, etc., for new sewage and water schemes.

Some part-time clerical assistance was provided.

.....

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supplies throughout the district remain the same as detailed in my 1925 and subsequent reports.

Although, generally speaking, this district is remarkably well covered with public water mains, there are a few exemptions and areas where shortage occurs at intervals.

Mockerkin.—The present supply to this hamlet is inadequate and unsatisfactory and this matter is receiving the attention of the Council with a view to a possible public supply (by connexion with the Dean to Pardshaw main).

Crummock Scheme.—For many years there have been complaints of shortage of water, at intervals, in several parts in this district supplied by the Crummock main, particularly at Brigham. During 1938 the position was so acute I was obliged to report specially to this Council in November as follows:—

“I desire to bring to your notice the unsatisfactory position with regard to the water supply to certain parts of the district fed from the Crummock Scheme.

“During recent scraping operations, Brigham in particular—in this Rural District—has suffered from acute shortage. An insufficiency has been experienced in the Crummock Scheme from time to time and though scraping obviously may be necessary at intervals, it appears there are inadequate arrangements to assist householders temporarily, and, in many cases, there has been complete deprivation of water for days in succession.

“The position has been very serious lately, and in the knowledge that such is likely to recur I would recommend that the Council forthwith consider the question with a view to having better arrangements made during scraping operations and a more adequate and satisfactory supply at all times.”

After negotiations with the Borough of Workington (which is responsible for the Crummock Scheme) the Rural District Council decided to construct an additional storage reservoir at Brigham which it is hoped may overcome the shortage complained of. Should this fail to give the desired results a further and fuller investigation, in my opinion, ought to be undertaken in order that a constant and adequate supply may be available at all times in all parts supplied under the Crummock Scheme.

Extensions of Water Mains.—The following were made during the year :—

Crummock supply.—Great Clifton—to the new Housing Estate, "The Gavels."—162 lin. yds. of 3in. main and 48 lin. yds. of lin. main.

Above Derwent supply—Braithwaite—to Council Houses—44 lin. yds. of 3in. main.

Dubwath supply—826 lin. yds. of 2in. main from Dubwath to Brathay Hill and The Crag.

Scraping of Water Mains.—The following were carried out :—
170 lin. yds. of 2in. main, Seaton—from Derwent Avenue to Brynwain.

526 lin. yds. of 3in. main, Seaton—from Main Road to Moorhouse Guards.

484 lin. yds. 9in. main, between Low Brigham and Broughton Meter-House.

Renewal of Water Mains :—

221 lin. yds. of lin. main at Greysouthen—Punchbowl Inn to The Lodge.

110 lin. yds. 4in. main in Greysouthen Parish—from Trunk Main below Broughton Cross.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The systems of Drainage and Sewerage throughout the district remain as detailed in my 1925 and subsequent reports.

Extensions of Main Sewers.—The following extension was carried out during 1938 :—

Braithwaite.—150 lin. yds. 6in. sewer (Terrace Road).

Sewerage Schemes completed 1938 :—

Schemes for the following villages were completed during 1938 :—Plumbland, Bridekirk, Gilcrux, Tallantire, Pardshaw, Rosthwaite and Stonethwaite. Reference to the table on page 19 will show the considerable progress made with private drainage work and the provision of water-closets in these villages.

Public Inquiries were held during 1938, in respect of proposed sewerage schemes for the following villages or hamlets :—Sunderland, Redmain (both in the parish of Blindcrake), Underskiddaw (embracing Applethwaite, Ormathwaite, Millbeck and Thrushwood), Dean and Ullock (both in the parish of Dean).

All these schemes were subsequently approved by the Ministry of Health, and at the time of writing those at Sunderland and Redmain have been completed, while a commencement has been made with the remainder.

.....

Among other parts of the Cockermouth Rural District in need of a public sewer and outfall works, particular mention may be made as follows:—

Sunnyslack (in the Parish of Broughton Moor).—Plans were prepared by the Engineer for a sewerage scheme for this hamlet. (A public Inquiry has been held 17th January, 1939).

Mockerkin (in the Parish of Dean), and Embleton.—It was decided to have plans prepared for suitable schemes for these places.

Grange (in the Parish of Borrowdale).—Although detailed plans were drafted for a sewerage scheme for this village, the proposal has not yet matured. Pumping apparatus will be necessary here, and the supply of electricity for power has not yet materialised. Meanwhile this choice part of the district is without a proper public sewer and outfall works and, in consequence, certain houses cannot have modern sanitation, and pollution of the River Derwent continues.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

As stated in previous reports, the installation of modern sewers and outfall works in various parts of the rural district, is having a beneficial effect in respect of removing drainage pollution from streams. Nevertheless, complaints have been received of pollution of certain streams by house and other refuse. On investigations being made it has been found that in most cases this has been due to the lack of a conveniently accessible public refuse tip or to the need of a proper system of house refuse removal.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

In the villages where there are public sewers or suitable private schemes, the drainage of 297 houses has been connected and 291 privies have been converted to the Water-Carriage system during the year.

Where new sewerage schemes have been provided steady progress is being made by owners of properties in connection with the provision of private drains and water closets.

There are a few cases where reluctant owners have failed so far to respond to persuasive measures. If this attitude is persisted in, it may become necessary to exercise compulsory powers to enforce the provision of proper drainage and sanitary arrangements which have been made possible by these public schemes.

The following table gives the description of Sanitary Conveniences in the sewered villages and hamlets which have efficient water supplies:—

Village or Hamlet.	Water Closets.	Pail Privies	Midden Privies.
Allerby ...	22	—	1
Bassenthwaite Village	37	—	—
Belle Vue ...	24	—	—
Blindcrake ...	29	11	7
Bothel ...	59	6	1
Braithwaite ..	124	—	—
Bridekirk ...	6	4	4
Brigham (incl. Broughton Cross)	139	12	3
Broughton Moor ...	126	—	—
Camerton ...	41	8	—
Crosby ...	102	—	2
Crosby Villa ...	49	—	—
Deanscales (incl. Beehive area.)	20	3	—
Dearham ...	232	156	12
Dovenby (Colony included)	50	—	—
Eaglesfield ...	46	5	—
Gilcrux ...	37	—	—
Great Broughton ...	182	—	—
Great Clifton ...	290	3	2
Greysouthen ...	101	—	—
Little Broughton ...	68	2	—
Little Clifton ...	106	2	—
Oughterside (including Prospect and West Moor End)	119	—	1
Papcastle ...	82	—	—
Pardshaw ...	15	1	1
Plumbland ...	72	21	5
Portinscale ...	158	—	—
Seaton ...	451	1	—
Setmurthy (Dubwath) ...	15	—	—
Tallautire ...	23	19	4

SCAVENGING AND REMOVAL OF REFUSE.

The Council contract for the removal of ashes and house refuse and the cleansing of privy middens in the following parishes:—

Great Clifton, Little Clifton, Seaton, Broughton Moor, Broughton, Allerby and Oughterside, Dearham, Brigham, Winscales (Furnace Row), Greysouthen, Lorton, Underskiddaw, Above Derwent, Papcastle, Crosscanonby, Camerton, Borrowdale, Embleton, Setmurthy and Wythop. (The four last-named were added to the list in August, 1938).

A system of removal of house refuse by private contract is still arranged by householders in Bassenthwaite village.

The total cost incurred for dust, etc., removal in the parishes above-mentioned was £957 17s 5d. The cost covers the provision and upkeep of tips, wheeling out, etc. For convenience and

greater accuracy these figures and the table below relate to the financial year ending 31st March, 1939.

Parish (or part)	Approx. No. of Houses.	Total Cost
		£ s d
Allerby & Oughterside	170	56 16 4
Above Derwent	300	160 14 5
*Borrowdale	121	41 7 3
Brigham (and Broughton Cross)	195	36 7 8
Broughton	330	41 11 5
Broughton Moor	185	44 1 5
Crosscanonby	216	41 7 8
Camerton	54	30 7 8
*Embleton	47	15 11 6
Dearham	480	120 7 8
Greysouthen	130	41 11 0
Great Clifton	280	74 17 8
Little Clifton and Bridgefoot	107	23 12 8
Lorton	89	43 17 2
Papcastle	86	53 14 0
Seaton	491	59 17 7
*Setmurthy	21	3 17 7
Underskiddaw	90	47 11 7
Winscales (Furnace Row)	17	13 7 7
*Wythop	16	3 17 7
	3425	£954 17 5

*Commenced August 1938

Buttermere.—The position in respect of the unsatisfactory refuse tip and system of refuse removal for Buttermere remains as reported in my last two annual reports, in spite of all efforts towards an improvement and a more satisfactory tip.

In previous annual reports the question of further extensions of the public service of house-refuse removal has been alluded to, and the suggestion given that the Council might in due course find it advisable to consider making further use of motor transport and adopt a system of controlled tipping at several centralised tips to cover all or most of the district. On instruction Mr. Simpson and Mr. Nelson, the Council's Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, respectively, prepared a general report on the collection and disposal of house refuse—this report, though submitted to the Public Health Committee on January 16th, 1939, I consider worth while giving herewith in full:—

COCKERMOUTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENERAL REPORT OF ENGINEER AND SANITARY INSPECTOR ON HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

As previously instructed, we have prepared the following general report on the collection and disposal of house refuse for your consideration.

At the outset we desire to explain that the delay in preparing this report has been entirely due to pressure of other duties, which still prevents us going into the details as fully as we had intended.

At the present time refuse removal is carried out by Contract in Twenty Parishes, covered by Contracts (for a period of 3 years) which will terminate on the 31st March next.

The following table indicates the Parishes covered, with the total cost of collection including refuse tip attendance and maintenance of the tips for the year ending 31st March, 1938.

Parish (or Part)	Collection	Total Cost 1937-38. £ s. d.
Above Derwent	Villages weekly, Outlying parts monthly	161 9 0
Allenby & Oughterside	Twice weekly	55 18 4
*Borrowdale	Villages fortnightly Outlying parts monthly	
Brigham	Twice weekly	35 13 9
Broughton	Twice weekly	46 19 1
Broughton Moor	Twice weekly	42 11 4
Camerton	Weekly	31 18 2
Crosscanonby	Weekly	41 8 4
Dearham	Village twice weekly Outlying part weekly	120 8 4
*Embleton	Monthly	
Great Clifton	Three collections per week	70 19 4
Greysouthen	Village twice weekly Outlying parts weekly	41 13 5
Little Clifton	Twice weekly	22 4 4
Lorton	Weekly	37 8 5
Papcastle	Twice weekly	52 9 4
Seaton	Village twice weekly, Calva Estates weekly	50 4 7
*Setmurthy	Monthly	
Underskiddaw	Weekly	49 19 5
Winscales	Twice weekly	13 8 5
*Wythop	Monthly	
Total (all in) Cost (Collection and refuse tips)		£874 13 7

NOTE:—

Collections added during 1938 starred *

Approximate number of houses served = 3,200 = 5/6 per house per annum.

We would suggest the Council re-advertise the existing Contracts for the same periods of collection as indicated on the previous page with the exception that Great Clifton Parish might be reduced from three collections per week to two collections, and that the following contracts be modified as follows:—

Borrowdale.—The houses in the Manesty area of the Above Derwent Parish should be added to the present Contract.

Crosscanonby.—The eight houses at Ellengrove in this Parish and the eighteen houses at Bullgill in the Gilerux Parish should be added to the present Contract.

Regarding the erection of new houses after the Contracts are commenced it is recommended that an additional allowance of 1½d per house per week be made on the net increased number of houses in the Contracts where Housing development is taking place or anticipated.

Where Sewerage Schemes have been carried out a reduction in cost of refuse removal is anticipated when and as water closets and dustbins supersede pail and midden privies and ashpits. We, therefore, recommend a clause again be inserted in each Contract regarding adjustments within the period covered by the Contracts.

We presume that the desire of the Council is to consider how far the extension of this service to other parts of the district may be necessary and practicable especially in view of the number of sewerage schemes completed and in progress where privies may be replaced by water closets and ashpits by dustbins.

We would recommend for your consideration the extension of this service to the following Parishes, viz.:—

Bothel and Threapland—Weekly collection for Bothel Village. Threapland (weekly collection) to be added to the Plumbland collection.

Gilcrux.—Weekly collection for Gilerux, Greengill, Dovey Place and Newtown.

Plumbland.—Weekly collection for Plumbland, Arkleby, Parsonby, Ward Hall and Ellen Villa.

Blinderake.—Weekly collection for Blinderake and Redmain.

Bridekirk.—Weekly collection for Bridekirk, Dovenby and Tallantire.

Buttermere.—Monthly collection for the village of Buttermere.

Bassenthwaite.—Fortnightly collection for Bassenthwaite Village, Terrace Road, Chapel and Castle Inn Areas.

Dean.—Fortnightly collection for Eaglesfield, Deanscales, Branthwaite, Dean, Ullock and Pardshaw.

The sanction of the Ministry of Health would have to be obtained for the collection in all the above Parishes with the exception of Buttermere (which has been approved) and before application can be made to the Ministry suitable tips will have to be obtained and it will take some time to make the necessary arrangements.

With respect to St. John's-in-the-Vale—it will be remembered reference to this Parish was made in a special report submitted to you in August, 1937. Up to the present however it has not been possible to make suitable arrangements regarding refuse tips and the question of extending the service to this Parish is therefore standing in abeyance.

REGULATION DUSTBINS. Under the Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 75) "A local authority who, as regards their district or any part thereof, have undertaken the removal of house refuse may by notice require the owner or occupier of any building within the district, or as the case may be, within that part of the district, to provide such number of covered dustbins for the reception of house refuse of such material, size and construction as the Authority may approve."

We would suggest the Council exercise their power under this section and recommend a regulation size of dustbin 17" dia. x 22" deep, this to take effect in all parts of the district where the Council undertake removal of house refuse from buildings and where there is not already a suitable dustbin in proper condition.

In the event of the Council deciding to enforce the provision of Regulation Dustbins it will be necessary (owing to general pressure of work) to obtain some temporary clerical assistance in connection with the service of the requisite notices.

REFUSE TIPS. Where suitable refuse tips do not already exist it would be necessary to make arrangements for the same and also obtain sanction of the Ministry of Health where this had not already been done.

In the event of the Council deciding to extend this service your general instructions on this matter might be given.

It should be borne in mind that the Ministry of Health would require that all refuse tips be properly kept and the method of "controlled tipping" adopted wherever possible. This would mean the appointment of sufficient and efficient Refuse Tip Attendants. Already in several instances this duty is carried out by sewage works attendants and this principle could be extended.

We trust the information and suggestions contained in this report will assist the Council in their efforts to improve and extend the important public service of House Refuse Removal and Disposal.

We are, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

A. E. SIMPSON, Engineer.

G. NELSON, Sanitary Inspector.

Grecian Villa, Cockermouth,
January, 1939.

After consideration of the above report, the Council passed at their meeting on 30th January, 1939, the following minute of the Public Health Committee:—

- (a) The Engineer be empowered to advertise the re-letting of the existing contracts, and to stipulate therein for the use of canvas or other covers for the vehicles.
- (b) With respect to the extension of the service to other parishes, these be deferred, for the present, until the Engineer and the Sanitary Inspector had time in which to find sites for the requisite tips and to report thereon to the Committee, as and when they were in a position to do so.
- (c) Regulation Dustbins. This matter be deferred for six months.

SCHOOLS.

SANITARY CONDITION AND WATER SUPPLY.

A full list of public elementary schools, together with details of water supplies and sanitary arrangements, was given in my 1930 report and any alterations have been reflected in subsequent annual reports.

Dearham and Plumbland.—Conversion from the conservancy to the water-carriage system has been effected at both of these schools and the drainage connected to the public sewer in each instance.

Camerton.—The public sewer at Camerton was completed early in 1937 and the School Correspondent was then supplied with details of the new drainage and sanitary arrangements necessary at the school. Up to the present, however, this work has not been commenced with; but, at the time of writing, a start is anticipated in the near future.

Gilerux.—The sewerage scheme for this village was completed on 13th May, 1938, and although the School Correspondent was supplied with details of the work necessary to convert from conservancy to water-carriage system, and the School Managers were interviewed, no material move has yet been made, apparently, by the School Authority. It seems odd these days to have to press for improvements of this character in connexion with centres of education for the young, and it is hoped that the School Authority will lose no further time in having the work put in hand.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The inclusive summary of work done by the two Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. George Nelson and Mr. Edgar Dixon, in accordance with Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926, will be found at the end of this report (commencing on page 42) and epitomises the vast amount of work done during the year.

The laying down of new sewerage schemes in various parts of the district during the last few years has increased the work of this department to an extent only realised by the officials themselves; as pointed out in my last annual report this work entails making the very necessary arrangements with owners for privy conversions and drainage connexions—a large number of these arrangements involving schemes of general improvements to properties with the making of plans and following up the work required. As new sewerage schemes are still in hand (in various stages) departmental work of this character will continue for several years to come.

In accordance with routine throughout the country the Ministry of Health caused a survey to be made of the Council's Public Health Services in August and September by Dr. Neil R. Beattie, one of the Ministry's Inspectors.

It was not until January, 1939, that a report on this survey was received from the Ministry, but it may be considered relevant to allude to it now.

Briefly, the report generally recognised the activities of the Council and the improvements carried out in recent years. Apart from matters of detail in administration it was recommended that in order to facilitate administration generally, better office accommodation and more clerical assistance should be provided,

At the time of writing the Council is considering moving to other premises where there is more accommodation, and has made the appointment of a boy (Denys Hind) to assist in office work in the public health department (and he intends to train in the general duties of a Sanitary Inspector).

I again gratefully acknowledge the valuable assistance of Mr. Nelson, Senior Sanitary Inspector, in the making of this report and record my appreciation of his friendly co-operation at all times.

The Public Health Department is confronted with many and varied problems, and the willing help he gives is worthy of mention.

Mr. E. Dixon, Assistant Sanitary Inspector, commenced duties at the beginning of February, 1938, and is a willing, conscientious and capable official.

SHOPS.

There were 36 shops on the register and 52 inspections made. New sanitary arrangements have been provided and/or existing arrangements improved in four instances.

The Shops Act, 1934, made provision for

- (a) the regulation of hours for young people employed in or about the business of wholesale or retail shops, also for washing facilities and accommodation for meals where taken on the premises, etc., and
- (b) sanitary arrangements, temperature and ventilation, etc.

So far as this area is concerned the former is under the administration of the County Council and the latter the Rural District Council. The officers of the two authorities work in co-operation in so far as registration is concerned.

CAMPING SITES.

(Public Health Act, 1936—Section 269).

The above section is directed to control holiday camping by giving local authorities power to issue licences ((a) authorising land to be used as a site for moveable dwellings and (b) permitting a person to erect or station and use an individual moveable dwelling) and to attach thereto certain conditions as to sanitation, water supply, etc.

These provisions came into operation on the 1st October, 1937, and during the year under review 17 applications were received for camping site licences and 19 for individual licences—14 of the former and 10 of the latter applications were favourably considered and licences granted, the remainder being refused on the ground of the sites or the erections being unsuitable.

The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the above at any one time during 1938 is, approximately, 500. This figure does not, of course, include the large number of campers who visit this district during summer months and who are exempt from this law.

It cannot be said that the above legal provisions have been as helpful as anticipated. The exemptions and difficulties in administration too oft permit the very type of erections it is desired to prevent, and this district has suffered in this respect seeing, in particular, that Section 27 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, which had been adopted by this Council, has now been repealed.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The Factories Act, 1937, came into force on the 1st July, 1938. This new Act is a consolidating and amending measure which replaces the Factory and Workshops Act of 1901 and various other enactments including some provisions of the Public Health Acts relating to Factories and Workshops. The old distinction between a Factory and a Workshop disappears and is replaced by the expressions Factory with Mechanical Power and Factory without Mechanical Power.

This new Act is designed to secure safe and healthy working conditions in manufacturing and certain other operations. With this object in view provisions are made relating to: Cleanliness, Overcrowding, Temperature, Ventilation, Lighting, Drainage of Floors, Sanitary Conveniences, Washing Facilities, Water Supplies, Prevention of Accidents, Fire Escapes, Welfare, etc., etc.

Generally speaking, the provisions of the new Act are administered by the authorities who administered the previous Acts, although there are added duties which will require attention.

The following table shows the position in this district at the end of 1938:—

Premises.	Number	Inspec- tions	Defects Found	Written Notices.	Defects Remedied	Prose- cutions
Factories with mechanical power	18	21	1	1	1	—
Factories without do	52	56	3	3	3	—
Other Premises under Act						
Totals	70	77	4	4	4	—

The defects referred to above were all in connexion with unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

In the Cockermouth Rural District there are no (a) public or (b) privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

There were only two or three cases to deal with and in these spraying and fumigation was the method adopted.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Work in connection with the above Act has been carried out throughout the year by the Public Health Department in co-operation with the County Council, as usual. Refuse tips and sewerage works under the Council's control have been periodically dosed with suitable poison, while in addition advice has been given and poison supplied to owners of private premises where the vermin existed.

During National Rat Weeks special posters are exhibited in various parts of the district, drawing attention to the provisions of the Rats and Mice Destruction Act and to the fact that poison for the destruction of the vermin can be obtained free of charge at the health department office of this Council.

.....

Housing.

PLANS PASSED*—

(a) For new dwelling-houses 65.

(b) Enlargements or renovations of dwelling-houses 44.

*Plans passed for other buildings, etc., included 4 dairy cowsheds.

76 new houses were completed in this district during the year:

(a) 34 built by the North-Eastern Housing Association for slum clearance and relief of overcrowding; and

(b) 42 built by private enterprise.

Further progress has been made with the Council's housing programme both in the matter of slum clearance and for the relief of overcrowding.

As mentioned in my last annual report the Council made arrangements with the North-Eastern Housing Association for the erection of houses in this district and during 1938 the following were erected by that Association:—

Village.	Slum Clearance.	Over- crowding.	Totals.
Great Clifton ...	12	16	28
Braithwaite ...	2	4	6

(The above houses were all occupied during 1938).

Arrangements were also made with the North-Eastern Housing Association for the erection of

24 houses at Seaton—14 for slum clearance and 10 for relief of overcrowding.

20 houses at Broughton—10 for slum clearance and 10 for relief of overcrowding.

40 houses at Dearham—all for slum clearance.

*24 houses at Broughton Moor—all for slum clearance.

(*Since increased to 32).

At the time of writing work is in progress with the erection of the 20 houses at Broughton. The delay in connection with the housing schemes at Seaton, Dearham and Broughton Moor is much regretted, but it has been due, I understand, to difficulties in connection with sites and other matters.

Efforts should continue to be made to improve the housing conditions in several other parts of the district not only by way of condemning unfit houses and rehousing their tenants but also providing accommodation for the relief of overcrowding.

It is unfortunate that as a result of the reduction in exchequer grants towards the cost of erection of new houses the rents must in consequence, be seriously increased on the original standard for slum clearance. Most of those living in unfit or overcrowded houses are of the low wage-earning class and although anxious to move to better accommodation the enhanced rents are found to be a real difficulty.

HOUSING (Rural Workers) ACT, 1926.

As explained in previous reports, the County Council is primarily responsible for the administration of this Act, which was designed to secure a contribution to the improvement of housing conditions for agricultural labourers and those of similar economic standing, by facilitating the reconditioning of existing dwelling-houses and the conversion into dwellings of buildings not previously used as such.

The Act, a temporary measure, and due to expire June, 1938, has been further extended to 30th September, 1942.

Financial assistance can be provided by grants and/or loans to owners who are willing to carry out approved works such as—

- (a) Structural alterations.
- (b) Additions.
- (c) Provision of Water Supply.
- (d) Drainage.
- (e) Sanitary conveniences and other like works.
- (f) Such other work as the County Council may deem to fall within the scope of the Act.

Endeavour continues to be made in making the provisions of the Act known and one would like to see many more owners taking advantage of the assistance offered. In 1938 there were 10 houses renovated—involving 4 owners.

Housing Appendix.

(in accordance with Circular 1728 Ministry of Health, 25th Oct., 1938)

STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts 188
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 336
 - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 0
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 0
 - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 45
 - (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 65
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 32
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:--
 - (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 0
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By owners 0
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... 0
 - (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 78
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By owners 63
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0
 - (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 1

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—			
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2	
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0	
4. Housing Act, 1936, Part iv., —Overcrowding :—			
(a)	(i.) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ...	95	
	(ii.) Number of families dwelling therein ...	101	
	(iii.) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	651	
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	0	
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	21	
	(ii.) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	149	
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ...	nil	

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowded conditions—

In regard to the 21 cases (4. (c) (i) above) of overcrowding relieved during the year :

15 have been rehoused in Council houses and
6 have found other accommodation, privately.

The Ministry of Health fixed the 1st day of April, 1937, as the "Appointed Day" in the Rural District of Cockermouth, after which any new case of overcrowding (with defined exceptions) would be a punishable offence in accordance with the Act. As from that date, it is the duty of owners of working class dwellings to place in the rent books or similar documents a summary of the provisions of the Act relating to offences and also a statement of the number of persons permitted to sleep therein. These particulars have to be obtained from the local authority. There are still approximately 1000 houses regarding which certificates have not yet been issued and for which applications have not been made by the owners or their agents.

Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are 622 registered dairy premises and of this number the occupiers may be classified as follows: 242 producers and wholesalers of milk, 112 producers and retailers, 8 retail purveyors and 260 producers and butter-makers.

Approximately 560 inspections were carried out.

As will be seen from the following table, 15 registered dairy premises were improved under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. There are still 167 dairy premises (approximately 27.0 per cent.) throughout the district which do not structurally comply with the requirements of the Order.

Work done under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, with regard to Registered Dairy Premises is shown in the following Progress Table :—

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Year	Total Registered Premises	Premises improved structurally	Premises which comply with M. & D. Order.	Premises which do not comply with requirements of the Order owing to structural or other defects.
1927	682	113	227	455
1928	695	102	330	365
1929	668	41	326	342
1930	669	57	374	295
1931	650	50	371	279
1932	665	17	378	275
1933	663	19	396	258
1934	652	24	405	247
1935	640	19	438	202
1936	622	15	444	178
1937	623	14	452	171
1938	622	15	450	168

Note—The number of premises improved structurally includes 4 new dairy cowsheds, and the work required in the last column includes light and ventilation, impervious floors, drainage, water supplies, etc.

As will be seen by the above table general progress in structural improvements, etc., to dairy premises continues to be slow.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, laid down the following different grades of designated milk:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk is milk from cows which have passed a veterinary examination and a tuberculin test; it is bottled on the farm or elsewhere; and it may be raw or pasteurised. If it is bottled on the farm, it may be described on the bottle caps or cartons as Tuberculin Tested Milk (~~Pasteurised~~) (~~Certified~~). It must satisfy certain bacteriological tests.

Accredited milk is raw milk from cows which have passed a veterinary examination; it is bottled on the farm or elsewhere. It must satisfy the same bacteriological tests as raw Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Pasteurised milk is milk which has been retained at a temperature of 145 degrees to 150 degrees F. for at least 30 minutes, and does not contain more than 100,000 bacteria per millilitre.

(Note.—It must be understood that milk not covered by this Order, is ungraded and therefore without any guaranteed standard of purity.)

The Order and scheme regarding the production of milk under "Special Designations" have been, and continue to be, potent factors in the efforts towards the production of a cleaner and purer milk supply from more modern and hygienic premises.

Milk Company, who have a Milk Receiving Depot at Carlisle, continue to collect a considerable quantity of milk from this district daily.

This Council has continued to co-operate with the County Council in the scheme of the latter for general milk-sampling, including Designated, School, and Ungraded Milk.

The total number of samples taken in this district by the Council's Sanitary officers was 183, of which 103 (or 56.28 per cent) were unsatisfactory—vide table below. Although these results are not pleasing to have to report, it may be said that 24 of the unsatisfactory samples were border-line cases. Joint action was taken by the County Council and the Rural District Council by way of warnings and special visits in all cases of unsatisfactory results, and there has since been a considerable improvement.

Result of the Bacteriological Examination of Milk Samples, 1938.

	Tuberculin Tested.	Accredited	Un- graded	Schools	Totals
Number of samples taken	25	92	36	30	183
Satisfactory	12	43	14	11	80
Unsatisfactory	13	49	22	19	103

On a sample of milk being reported as Tubercular, a thorough investigation is made and suitable action taken by officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Mr. John Cameron, Divisional Inspector of that Authority has kindly supplied me with the following figures :—

Particulars of Animals Slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order of 1925, from premises registered in the Cockermouth Rural District, during the year 1938.

Total Number of Animals Slaughtered	..	..	26
Cows in Milk	..	..	8
Other Cows or Heifers	..	..	15
Other Bovine Animals	..	..	3
Types of Disease found at post-mortem:—			
Tuberculosis of Udder	..	..	1
Tuberculosis with Emaciation	..	..	7
Tuberculosis with Chronic Cough and showing definite Clinical signs	..	..	18

Tubercle bacilli were reported present in 5 samples including three 'group samples' (i.e., milk from more than one farm—in these instances 2 farms, 3 farms and 3 farms, respectively, were involved), in one of the latter cases an affected cow was found and slaughtered. In the remaining cases no affected cow could be found and control samples were negative, but in two cases at any rate dry cows had been disposed of between the time the sample was taken and report received and it is assumed infection in each instance originated from one of these animals.

The co-operation of, and joint inspections with, the Veterinary Staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries continued harmonious and helpful in matters relating to dairy work and milk production.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Slaughter-Houses.—There are 18 slaughter-houses in the district—15 licensed and 3 registered.

181 Inspections were made.

Approximately 11,000 lbs. of meat (including 19 carcasses of beef) were condemned and destroyed as unfit for human consumption—18 owing to tubercular disease, and 1 pyaemia, also 14 bovine livers due to cirrhosis. The whole of this meat was voluntarily surrendered.

The structural condition and general arrangement of some of the slaughter-houses and premises connected with them will need improving to bring them up to the standard required by the new Food and Drugs Act which comes into operation on October 1st, 1939.

The Meat Regulations of 1924 continue to be helpful, and butchers generally need have no fear in co-operating with the local Authority and honouring their obligations under the regulations which were rightly designed as a safeguard to the purchasing public.

There are 40 licensed slaughter-men in the Cockermouth Rural District.

.....

Bakehouses.—There remain 12 registered bakehouses in the district, 6 of which are domestic. There were no serious defects found during the year.

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The Food and Drug Acts and the Milk and Cream Regulations are administered in this district by the County Council.

.....

Anthrax.—7 suspected cases of this disease were notified under the Anthrax Order, 1910. None of these proved to be Anthrax.

.....

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—The total number of Infectious Diseases notified during 1938, in the Cockermouth Rural District, including Pulmonary and other forms of Tuberculosis, Pneumonia, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Encephalitis Lethargica, Poliomyelitis, and Cerebro-spinal Fever, was 53.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES 1938

Disease	Total cases notified in the district	Cases notified 1938 admitted to hospital	Deaths
Small-pox ...	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	25	24	0
Enteric Fever (including Para-Typhoid)	2	2	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	5	3	0
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	0	0
Erysipelas ...	3	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	0	0	0
Ac. Poliomyelitis	1	1	0
Tuberculosis :—			
Pulmonary { Males	3	1 (San.)	1
{ Females	3	2 "	0
{ Total	6	3 "	1
Non-Pulmonary { Males	2	0	1
{ Females	3	0	1
{ Total	5	0	2

Information was received of two previously notified cases (1 m. 1 f.) of Pulmonary Tuberculosis having been admitted to Sanatorium in 1938 from this district.

Table showing monthly incidence of notifiable diseases, 1938

Disease	Jan	Feb.	Mar	Apr.	May.	J'ne	July	Aug	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Diphtheria													—0
Scarlet Fever	2	4	4		1	1		1	1	4	4	3	—25
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	1	1	1						1			—5
Erysipelas			2							1			—3
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	1			1								—5
Enteric Fever para-typhoid					2								—2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum						1							—1
Acute Poliomyelitis						1							—1
Tuberculosis :													
Pulmonary			1		1	1			2		1		—6
Other Forms		1				1	1		1	1			—5

The incidence of notifiable infectious diseases was low. From notifications received it is deduced that 1 in every 333 persons in this district contracted a disease notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act (Chickenpox excluded) and Tuberculosis Regulations. (In 1937 the figures were 1 in 237).

There was only one case of diphtheria—this being a case of a child notified while in Sanatorium, with fatal termination. So actually there were no notifications within this district during 1938.

According to records it has never happened before that a year has passed without a notification of Diphtheria in the Cockermouth Rural District.

The following table gives the age incidence of each disease notified during the year.

		Cases notified in 1938.											
		Ages.—Years.											
Notifiable Disease.		At all Ages											
		Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 & upwards.
Smallpox	...	0											
Diphtheria	...	0											
Scarlet Fever	...	25	1	1	4	1	12	5		1			
Enteric Fever,	...	0											
Para-Typhoid	...	2					1			1			
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	0											
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	5								5			
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	1	1										
Pneumonia	...	5								2	1	1	1
Erysipelas	...	3				1					1	1	
Encephalitis Lethargica...	...	0											
Poliomyelitis	...	1		1									
Tuberculosis—													
Pulmonary { M.	...	3								1		1	1
Pulmonary { F.	...	3					2	1					
Non-Pulmonary, { M.	...	2	1							1			
Non-Pulmonary, { F.	...	3						1		1			1
		Ages at Death during the year											

The case rate of diphtheria (actually occurring within the district) per 1000 of the population was therefore nil as compared with 0.67 for 1937. (The corresponding rate for all England and Wales was 1.58).

The Diphtheria death rate per 1000 of the population was .05, the same as that for 1937. The rate (1938) for England and Wales was .07.

25 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, a decrease of 3 in the figure for 1937. The disease occurred in nine parishes—vide table page 40—and on the whole was mild in type. There were no deaths. The three cases in Bridekirk parish occurred in the Dovenby Colony. 21 cases were removed to the Council's Isolation Hospital at Broughton Moor. The Dovenby Colony cases were admitted to Ellerbeck Hospital, Workington.

The case rate of Scarlet Fever per 1000 of the population was 1.4, as compared with 1.5 for 1937. (The corresponding rate for all England and Wales was 2.41 and death rate .01).

Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fever.—There were 2 cases notified—mother and child of 6 years—of the latter disease in May in Gilcrux. The origin was untraced. Both cases were removed to the Workington Corporation Infectious Diseases Hospital at Ellerbeck and recovered. The Typhoid case rate per 1000 of the population was therefore .11 and death rate nil, the corresponding rates for all England and Wales being .03 and .00.

Five cases of Pneumonia were notified, all of which recovered. The deaths from this disease (all forms) numbered 8.

A sporadic case of Acute Poliomyelitis—i.e. Infantile Paralysis—was notified (that of a child in Great Broughton in June) and sent forthwith to the Ethel Hedley Orthopaedic Hospital, Windermere, for treatment.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever (C.S. Meningitis).—Again no notifications. The same may be said of Encephalitis Lethargica, though one death was attributed to this latter disease.

Five notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia were received. (N.B.—This term now also includes Puerperal Fever). Three cases received hospital treatment. All recovered.

The case rate for Puerperal Pyrexia is better expressed in relation to the number of births registered rather than to the population. When calculated on this basis the rate is 18.65 per 1000 total births (i.e. live and still births) registered during the year. The corresponding rate for all England and Wales was 14.42.

There being no maternal deaths the Maternal Mortality (all causes) rate was therefore nil per 1000 total (live and still) births, as compared with 3.61 for 1937. The rate (1938) for England and Wales was 2.97 (all causes).

One notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was received. After suitable treatment recovery ensued.

Tuberculosis.—Under the Tuberculosis Regulations 6 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (3 males and 3 females) and 5 of Other Forms of Tuberculosis (2 males and 3 females) were notified. Three pulmonary cases (1 male and 2 females) notified during the year were admitted to Sanatorium, whilst 3 died (1 male, pulmonary, and 1 male, 1 female, non-pulmonary).

1 non-pulmonary, female, of 8 years, was recorded as having died from causes other than Tuberculosis.

A statement regarding the total deaths from Tuberculosis will be found on page 14.

The following table gives the number of New Cases and Mortality (all cases) during 1938:—

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
20—25	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
35—45	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
65—and upwards	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	3	2	3	2	5	2	1

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1938 was as follows:

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	18	19	37
Non-pulmonary	14	12	26
All cases	32	31	63

Cognizance is taken of cases which come within the scope of the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, which relates to powers regarding persons suffering from Tuberculosis of the respiratory tract, and in an infectious state. No infringement has yet occurred.

With reference to the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62, regarding compulsory removal to hospital or institution, no action has been taken.

Pamphlets relating to certain diseases, e.g. Measles, Scarlet Fever, Influenza, Diphtheria, are distributed when considered advisable. Printed instructions regarding the common notifiable diseases are given where each case occurs, along with a special warning under Section 126 of the Public Health Act, 1875. No immunisation scheme was carried out.

Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases.—Influenza was prevalent in many parishes mostly in the latter end of the year. 3 deaths were attributed to this disease—equivalent to a death rate of .17 per 1000 of the population, (the rate for England and Wales was 0.11).

There was no epidemic of Whooping Cough and no deaths were recorded. The death rate, therefore, from this disease was nil per 1000 of the population. (The rate for England and Wales was 0.03).

Whooping Cough deaths for the past 10 years:—

Year—1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Deaths—nil	2	nil	1	4	2	1	2	2	1

Measles was prevalent in a number of parishes in the first half of the year. One death occurred (a baby of 22 months) in Broughton Moor in May. This death gives a measles death rate of 0.5 per 1000 of the population. (The rate for England and Wales was 0.04).

In the ten years previous to 1938 there have only been two deaths from measles, viz. in 1931.

A few cases of Mumps occurred in several parishes mainly during the second quarter.

Chickenpox was epidemic particularly in the parishes of Lorton and Bridekirk in the first quarter of the year, and Seaton and Above Derwent in August and September.

SCHOOL CLOSURES.

During 1938 ten public elementary schools in the Cockermouth Rural District were closed (for varying periods), on account of epidemics of either Measles, Influenza, Sore Throats or Chickenpox, as follows:—

Measles—Seaton Infants (parts of January and February); Broughton Moor Infants and Mixed, and Dearham Infants (parts of April and May); Crosby and Borrowdale (parts of March); and Isel (part of June).

Influenza—Isel (parts of November and December).

Chickenpox—Lorton and Dovenby (parts of January and February).

Sore Throats—Newlands (part of January).

The following table shows the incidence of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and Typhoid Fever in the various parishes:—

1938.				Scarlet Fever.		Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fever.	
Parish.		Diphtheria					
Above Derwent	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Allerby and Oughterside	... ..	—	...	2	...	—	—
Bassenthwaite	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Bewaldeth, &c.	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Blindcrake, incl. Isel Old Park and Sunderland	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Bothel and Threapland	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Bridekirk (incl. Dovenby and Tallantire—	... ..	—	...	3	...	—	—
Gt. and Lt. Broughton	... ..	—	...	4	...	—	—
Broughton Moor	... ..	—	...	6	...	—	—
Blindbothel incl. Mosser & Whinfell	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Borrowdale	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Brigham	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Buttermere incl. Brackenthwaite	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Camerton, incl. Ribton	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Great Clifton	... ..	—	...	1	...	—	—
Little Clifton	... ..	—	...	5	...	—	—
Crosscanonby	... ..	—	...	1	...	—	—
Dearham	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Dean, incl. Eaglesfield &c.	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Embleton	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Flimby	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Gilcrux	... ..	—	...	—	...	2 (para)	—
Greysouthen	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Lorton	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Loweswater and Mockerkin	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Papcastle	... ..	—	...	1	...	—	—
Plumbland, &c.	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Seaton	... ..	—	...	2	...	—	—
St John's-in-the-Vale	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Setmurthy	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Underskiddaw, incl. Skiddaw	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Winscales	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Wythop	... ..	—	...	—	...	—	—
Totals..		0	...	25	...	2	—

SUMMARY
OF WORK DONE
BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS
During the year 1938.

Sanitary Inspectors' Summary for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

NUISANCES:—

Complaints received	64
Nuisances detected and reported	557
Nuisances abated	443
Nuisances unabated or work in hand at end of year	114
Water closets and privies repaired	47
Drains tested	12
New drains laid	21
New gully traps fixed	27
New chambers constructed	14
New sinks fixed	48
Septic tanks and filters constructed (private)	7
New water closets built	11
Houses Disinfested	6

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:—

Visits to infectious cases	28
Patients removed to Isolation Hospital	26
Houses disinfested	33
Infected bedding, etc., destroyed and compensation allowed	2

WATER SUPPLIES:—

Houses visited with special reference to water supplies	31
Houses provided with supplies from new public mains.....	20
Houses provided with supplies from new private sources	17
Old connections and service pipes renewed	

HOUSING:—

Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	110
Number of inspections made	208
Houses recorded under Consolidation Regulations	0
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. ...	45
Houses (not including above) with structural or other defects	65
Houses, defects remedied	32
Representations for closing or demolition	45
Closing Orders served	2
Demolition Orders served	0
Houses demolished	1
Cases of overcrowding relieved during year	21
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	78
Number of inspections made	167
Number of houses with defects amounting to nuisances	78
„ „ (nuisances) remedied	63

CAMPING:—

Licences issued under P.H.A. 1936 (Section 269), Camping Sites 15, Individual Moveable Dwellings 11	26
Visits of Inspection	96

SEWERING:—

Inspections (including interviews with owners of properties) regarding the provision of new sanitary arrangements and drainage connexions	727
Private drains connected to public sewers	297
Privies converted to water carriage system	291
New water closets built	143
New gully traps fixed	233
New chambers constructed	136
Houses visited and sanitary arrangements inspected in connection with proposed new sewerage schemes ...	199
Public Inquiries attended and evidence prepared for the Council	5

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS:—

On the Register at the end of the year (Producers and Wholesalers 244, Producers and Retailers 112, Retail Purveyors 8, Producers and Butter-makers 260).....	622
Visits of inspection	563
Number of registered premises (including 4 new cowsheds) structurally improved	15
Registered premises with structural or other defects and not up to the requirements of the M. and D. Order, 1926	168
Samples of Milk taken for Bacteriological Analysis (see table page 33)	183
(103 were unsatisfactory as to cleanliness).	

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION:—

Number of slaughter-houses on the Register—	
3 registered and 15 Licensed	18
Number of licensed Slaughtermen ..	40
Inspections made	181
Meat condemned and destroyed (lbs. approx) ..	1,100

FACTORIES (including Workshops and Bakehouses).

On the Register at the end of the year.....	69
Visits of inspection	77

SHOPS' ACT, 1934:—

Registered premises	36
Visits of inspection	52
New sanitary arrangements provided ...	4

SCAVENGING:—

Foul ashpits reported and cleansed (private)	10
Loads of refuse removed by Public Scavengers	6745

NOTICES:—

Under the Public Health Acts (Intimatory)	559
Under the Public Health Acts (Statutory)	9
Under the Housing Acts (Intimatory)	137
Under the Housing Acts (Statutory)	181
Under the Milk & Dairies Order, 1926 (Intimatory)	204
Under the Milk & Dairies Order, 1926 (Statutory).....	0

GEORGE NELSON, M.S.I.A.

Senior Sanitary and Housing Inspector.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Introduction	3
Anthrax	34
Bakehouses	34
Births	7
Cancer	13
Deaths	7
Drainage and Sewerage	17
Factories Act, 1937	26
General Provision of Health Services	14
Housing	27
Housing Appendix	29
Infantile Mortality	11
Infectious Diseases : Prevalence of, and Control over	34
do. Non-Notifiable, Acute	39
Inquests	12
Milk Supply	30
Public Assistance	6
Rainfall	5
Sanitary Inspection	24
Scavenging	19
Senility	12
Slaughterhouses	34
Summary of Work of Sanitary Inspectors	42
Tuberculosis	14 & 38
Violence	12
Water Supply	16
Zymotic Deaths	13

